

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/566,678

Examiner

Dameon E. Levi

Applicant(s)

MIYAWAKI ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/13/2006(Amendment) 03/02/2007(Interview).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 5-7(Renumbered 1-4).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 03/02/2007.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Adam C. Ellsworth (Reg. No. 55,152) on 03/02/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

AMEND CLAIM 1 AS FOLLOWS:

1. (Currently Amended) A PC card comprising:
a printed board having an electronic component mounted thereon;
a main cover comprising a frame and a planar portion for accommodating therein the printed board;
a cover member fixed to the main cover and covering the printed board;
the main cover having at least one opening in a predetermined region of the planar portion thereof in opposed relation to the electronic component to prevent interference with the electronic component; and
at least one plate member fixed to close the opening of the main cover and to cover a part of the planar portion of the main cover, wherein the main cover also has a recess formed outside the predetermined region, and the plate member has an outer surface

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at substantially the same level as an outer surface of the main cover, the plate member having a smaller thickness than the planar portion of the main cover[.] ;

the main cover also having another opening to prevent interference with the electronic component, on which another opening is closed with another plate member, and the main cover and the cover member each having a step in an outer surface thereof, surrounding the opening and having a depth substantially equal to the thickness of the plate member.

CANCEL CLAIM 2:

CANCEL CLAIM 3:

AMEND CLAIM 7 AS FOLLOWS:

7. (Currently Amended) A PC card comprising:

a printed board having an electronic component mounted thereon;

a main cover comprising a frame and a planar portion for accommodating therein the printed board;

a cover member fixed to the main cover and covering the printed board;

the main cover having two or more openings in a predetermined region of the planar portion thereof in opposed relation to the electronic component to prevent interference with the electronic component; and a plate member fixed to close the openings of the main cover and covering a part of the planar portion of the main cover, and a recess formed outside the predetermined region, the plate member having an outer surface at

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substantially the same level as an outer surface of the main cover, the plate member having a smaller thickness than the planar portion of the main cover, the main cover also having another opening to prevent interference with the electronic component, on which another opening is closed with another plate member, and the main cover and the cover member each having a step in an outer surface thereof, surrounding the opening and having a depth substantially equal to the thickness of the plate member, and

the relationship between the distance from the printed board to a surface of the electronic component, the distance from the print board to an inner surface of the main cover, and the distance from the print board to the plate member is $h1 \leq h < h2$.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 5-7(Renumbered 1-4) are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In response to remarks and claim amendments authorized by Applicant's Representative during an Interview on 03/02/2007, and, upon conclusion of a comprehensive search of the pertinent prior art, the Office indicates that the claims, as amended, are allowable.

Regarding independent claims 1 and 7, patentability exists, at least in part, with the features of the main cover also having another opening to prevent interference with the electronic component, on which another opening is closed with another plate member, and the main cover and the cover member each having a step in an outer surface

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thereof, surrounding the opening and having a depth substantially equal to the thickness of the plate member.

The prior art, taken alone, or, in combination does not fairly teach or suggest at least neither of the limitations above, nor, all of the limitations arranged and assembled in the manner as taught by the Applicants.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dameon E. Levi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2105. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. (9:00 - 5:00) IFP, Fridays Telework.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Examiner
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3/15/07